Naturist Rochester News

The Journal of Naturist LifeStyle in Western New York ©

Volume Seven • Number Three • July 1989

Topfree Equality News

This year, the Coalition for Topfree Equality organized two actions, a June 24th picnic on Durand Eastman Beach and a July 15th picnic and press conference in Seneca Falls, New York.

On the beach, over 75 people including more than 40 topfree women swam, played frisbee and bocce ball, and shared a potluck picnic for over two hours. The mood was festive. Other people on the beach went on with their activities, obviously undisturbed by the picnic. There were no voyeurs or negative comments. The atmosphere was similar to the atmosphere at picnics in Genesee Valley Park the last two years. The picnic was a wonderful, relaxing experience until sheriffs deputies arrived to arrest ten women who chose to remain topfree after police ordered "the girls" to cover their chests.

The situation in Seneca Falls was quite a contrast. When the first four women and their families arrived, the very small park was full of people including many police officers. Both police and other people could be overheard discussing the arrival of the topfree women. The action was planned to coincide with the annual celebration of the first *Women's Rights Convention* held in Seneca Falls in 1848. An official of the Celebration planning group approached the women to discuss where to hold the picnic. A corner of People's Park called, appropriately, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Park, was mutually agreed upon since it was a short distance away from the center of the crowd (Stanton was the principle author of the *Declaration of Sentiments*, a document coming out of the 1848 Convention which is usually considered the start of the women's rights movement in this country). The women spread a couple of blankets and sat down with their families to enjoy a picnic. The area was soon surrounded by spectators and police waiting for a show. Many more women and other supporters gradually arrived to reinforce the group, bringing the number to over 50. About 10 women from the nearby Women's Peace Encampment were particularly welcome. The women soon decided not to remove their shirts to provide the anticipated performance–atmosphere was not conducive to a relaxing picnic.

As the women and their supporters ate and made plans, the surrounding crowd eventually became bored and thinned considerably. The women decided to take charge of the situation by marching two blocks down Seneca Falls' Main Street to the

continued page two

Steph's Pond Events

Since the weather broke in early June, Steph's Pond has been very busy. Naturists have enjoyed lots of volleyball, impromptu pot luck meals, swimming and canoeing and simple relaxation in the sun.

National Nude Weekend was a great success bringing many new people and excellent press coverage. Newspaper, radio and television and community calendars featured the weekend. Also, the new ESA radio ad was run on local station WKLX.

continued page two

Durand Eastman Beach Update

The Lake Ontario water level is unusually high this summer. As a result, the traditional clothing optional area is almost non–existent. However, there are small areas of beach on both sides of the underpass which naturists are using–particularly after work on weekdays. The water temperature is now pleasant. Watching the sunset over the water on warm evenings is a special experience.

Some of the small beach areas now require wading through shallow water to reach, assuring privacy and making police harassment unlikely. (But we

continued page two

from page one

Steph's Pond

Several events are scheduled for Steph's Pond: Christmas in July will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 29 (rain date: July 30). Advance sign up at the pond *is a must.* Bring a dish to pass. There will be a pinata for the kids.

The Annual Ice Cream Social will be on the afternoon of Sunday, August 6. This is always a popular event for the whole family. A Crazy Hat Contest for kids of all ages will be held Saturday afternoon, August 19. (rain date: August 20) A pot luck meal will follow. Labor Day Weekend will feature a pot luck meal and corn roast on Sunday, September 3 (rain date: Monday, September 4).

Check the bulletin board at the pond for details of these and other naturist events.

---

from page one

Durand Beach

continue to caution you regarding a careful observance of the Irondequoit line since Town police will make arrests).

The June beach cleanup was successful with many bags full of assorted garbage removed. We cleaned the entire area from the underpass to the Irondequoit line. Two television stations covered the event. George Madden wishes to thank all who, once again, made this a worthwhile project.

from page one

Topfree Summer

National Women's Hall of Fame. Seventeen women held a topfree press conference in front of the Women's Hall of Fame explaining the importance of the topfree equality issue and relating it to the historic events in Seneca Falls. Some photographs were taken which should prove to be classics. The police chose to make no arrests. The initial press coverage was excellent although at this writing it's too soon to assess further press reaction. It's ironic that a relaxing picnic on the beach led to arrests while the anything–but–relaxing action in Seneca Falls remained arrest free.

The women arrested at Durand Eastman Beach were: Susan David, Lynn Gallo, Nina Leibowitz, Gail Neisner, Tierney O'Brien-Dovan, Kathie Reilly, Ramona Santorelli, Mary Lou Schloss, and Sarah Wells. The women were harassed after the arrest by spending an hour in the back of a locked, hot paddywagon with exhaust fumes blown in and another hour in the city lockup. Tierney was threatened with her baby being taken away and placed in foster care for the weekend. Several of the women have filed a complaint with the Police Review Board since the usual treatment for a person accused of a violation (such as a speeding or parking ticket or jaywalking) is issuance of an appearance ticket on the spot. The women were finally given appearance tickets and released after three men *gave up their shirts* in the lobby of the Public Safety Building so that three women who had no shirts with them would have something to wear. Thus, the police asked three men to be topfree in a public building so the women would not be topfree.

All the women were charged with Exposure of a Person, a violation, and enterred pleas of "not guilty" at their arraignment in City Court on June 27 before Judge John Manning Regan. This year the women will base their case solely on the law being unconstitutional since it violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. and N.Y. State constitutions. The law requires women, but not men, to cover their chests in public. The only exceptions to the law are that women's chests may be exposed to nurse infants or to entertain–such as women dancing topless in a bar to sell drinks to men. Four years ago, charges against the Topfree Seven were dismissed on first amendment Freedom of Speech grounds. This year, that approach will not be used so that the important equal rights for women case can be heard. The women are scheduled to appear in court for preliminary motions on August 1. The trial will probably take place sometime in the fall. Women will be represented by private attorney, Sharon Sayers and public defender, Jeff Wicks. Mary Lou Schloss will represent herself to allow added flexibility in proceedings.

This year's beach picnic has received extensive press coverage including radio talk shows from

continued next page

Topfree Summer

Seattle, Phoenix, Denver, West Palm Beach, Washington, D.C. and New York City, national wire service reports, several local television interview shows and supportive editorials nationwide (Roger Libby in USA Today and Mike Royko, syndicated) and in City Newspaper. Of course, all the local media reported our activities. WROC-TV (Rochester channel 8) newscasts included shots of women's topfree breasts naturally. They received no complaints.

All this gives the women the opportunity to explain not only the inequality of the law, but also the damaging effects of requiring women to conceal their breasts. Women grow up not knowing what normal breasts look like and dissatisfied with their own. Men and women learn to view breasts as sex objects causing problems in relationships and women's self image. Women avoid breastfeeding their infants; breast augmentation is now the leading cosmetic surgery for women; women avoid checking their breasts for cancer. More mature areas of the world where breasts are not hidden have gone beyond this obsession with breasts and the related problems.

Women in Rochester have been increasingly topfree on beaches and in parks with no problem. Recently, Ramona Santorelli rode her bicycle topfree in the southeast section of Rochester for 3 hours with no negative remarks or catcalls. *Times are changing.*

Contributions are urgently needed to help pay for the legal defense of the Topfree Ten. There will be court costs and possibly a need to fly in expert witnesses for a trial. Please send your contributions now to:

Coalition for Topfree Equality
237 Vassar Street
Rochester, NY 14607.

DA Approves Backyard Nudity!

Monroe County District Attorney **Howard Relin** has stated twice that people may be nude in their back yards.

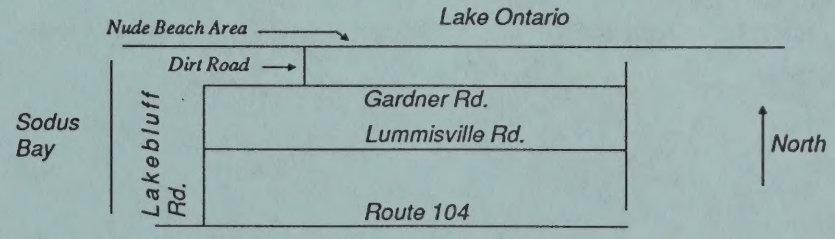
On WHEC–TV's *Newsmakers* program, taped July 13 for showing July 23, in a debate with members of the Topfree Ten, Relin said "no" to beach nudity but "yes" to backyards. He was speaking of nudity at the time, not just being topfree. He made a similar statement four years ago on the Phil Donahue show.

So let's practice in our backyards what the prosecutor preaches.

Chimney Bluffs Nude Beach

Chimney Bluffs is a dramatic and beautiful sandstone formation located on the south shore of Lake Ontario that has been a regular stop for area naturists for years. Recent reports indicate that this fine beach is once again seeing considerable use.

From Rochester - Take Route 104 East to Sodus. Turn left on Lake Bluff Road. Continue left (north) on Lake Bluff Road past Lummisville Road. About 1 mile past Lummisville Road, Lake Bluff Road turns into Gardner Road. Continue north until the road curves right (east). Just past the curve is a small dirt road on the left which leads to the west end of Chimney Bluffs and the secluded part of the beach.



Naturist Rochester News is published at least four times each year at Rochester, NY by The Rochester Naturist Society–237 Vassar Street, 14607. Articles, editorial comments, artwork or other contributions are welcomed and encouraged.

Editor—Morley Schloss
Typing—Rosanne Cohen
Design and Layout—George Madden
© 1989 RNS

Naturist Rochester Calendar of Events

Saturday—Sunday, July 22–23	Junior Fest *Timber Trails, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*
Wednesday—Sunday, July 26–30	Eastern Sunbathing Association Convention, *White Tail Park, Norfolk, Virginia*
Saturday, July 29—4:00pm	Christmas in July, *Steph's Pond*
Sunday, August 6 afternoon	Ice Cream Social, *Steph's Pond*
Monday—Sunday, August 7–13	American Sunbathing Association Convention *Forest Hills Club, Grand Rapids, Michigan*
Saturday, August 19	Crazy Hat Contest and Pot Luck, *Steph's Pond*
Sunday, September 3, afternoon	Pot Luck Meal and Corn Roast, *Steph's Pond*
Monday, September 11, 8pm	Naturist Rochester Board of Directors Meeting *237 Vassar Street, Rochester*

The scheduled August beach cleanup is being canceled due to the high water and the current lack of litter on the beach areas that remain. The pockets of beach that we use near the underpass are relatively clean at this time. Thanks again to those who participated in the June Beachwalk and Litter Pickup.

For the following memberships and subscriptions, contact Naturist Rochester, 237 Vassar St., Rochester, New York, 14607.

Naturist Rochester including *Naturist Rochester News* $5/household.
American Sunbathing Association including *The Bulletin* $20/single, $32.50/couple.
Naturist Society including *Clothed with the Sun* $30/household.
The Event, $14/household.

RENEWAL NOTICE

To submit articles for publication, to subscribe or renew your subscription to Naturist Rochester News, contact Morley Schloss, 237 Vassar Street, Rochester, New York 14607 (716) 244-1219. If it is time to renew your membership in Naturist Rochester, which includes a subscription ($5.00/year), it will be noted on the mailing label below.

Naturist Rochester News
237 Vassar Street
Rochester, New York 14607

NATURIST SOCIETY

Naturist Leadership Council